

Abstract

A method for the pregobbing of an optical fiber preform to provide pre-
5 optimized tip taper and system for drawing optical fiber therefrom. The downtime of
an optical fiber drawing apparatus can be considerably shortened, by providing
preforms that have a pre-optimized tip shape. Pre-optimized tips are provided which
are melted off at the tip by an induction heater of a heating furnace. Preferably, the
pregobbing furnace has substantially the same temperature profile as the draw furnace.
10 Therefore, because the tip of the preform is optimized and unusable glass has been
removed, throughput of the draw apparatus is advantageously increased. Moreover, the
shape of the tip of the preform is optimized in that it has been exposed to the same
temperature profile as it would have seen had the draw tip been formed in the draw
furnace.

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